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(71) Applicant(s): POLISSET DE COATAUDON
GISLAINE – FR

(72) Inventor(s): POLISSET DE COATAUDON
GISLAINE.

(73) Assignee:

(74) Attorney or Agent: CAPRI

(54) Disinfectant floor covering.

(57) Floor covering intended for use at the entrance of a building for wiping the soles of shoes, said floor covering comprising an upper face used for wiping said soles and a lower face in contact with the floor, characterized in that at least one part of the upper face has a disinfectant product.

[illustration]

The present invention concerns a floor covering, such as a door mat or rug, intended to be used at the entrance to a building, such as a public building or private home, for wiping the feet, that is the soles of shoes.

Contamination control is an ongoing concern in the world of industrial sanitation as well as for individuals. However, although research activities in the field of contamination [control] and disinfection of industrial and sanitary facilities have led to true disinfection management, where individual homes are concerned disinfection remains limited.

This is not a passing fad but the expression of a desire for protection from the sources of infection from existing contaminants and more specifically from germs on the ground (refuse, saliva, etc.).

The soles of shoes, especially in cities, constantly transport germs that are transmitted to our floors, our rugs, our carpets. The child who plays on the floor is inevitably brought into contact with these germs.

To overcome these hygiene problems, the present invention proposes a floor covering intended to be placed at the entrance to a building to wipe the soles of shoes, said floor covering comprising an upper face intended for wiping said soles and a lower face in contact with the ground, at least one part of the upper face having a disinfectant product.

The disinfectant product can be impregnated into the covering but preferably a receptacle is provided for receiving a material capable of retaining through impregnation the disinfectant. In this case, said retention material can be removed for cleaning or replacement.

This covering can be used in front of each entrance to an individual home, in community settings (retirement homes, day care facilities, etc.), medical settings (hospitals, maternity facilities, etc.), food preparation settings (dining areas), and public places with a significant risk of contamination (airports, etc.).

The preimpregnated (and reimpregnable) covering can be easily impregnated by means of a bactericidal, fungicidal, and viricidal disinfectant detergent active against HIV and Hepatitis B.

A fuller description of a non-limiting embodiment of the invention is given below for illustrative purposes only. References are to the attached drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 is a perspective view of a floor covering according to the invention.
- Figure 2 is a cutaway view of the floor covering of Fig. 1 along A-A.

The floor covering according to the invention can be of any shape and size suitable for the anticipated use and location. In general the floor covering is rectangular or square.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, we see that the floor covering, designated by numerical reference 1, comprises an upper face 13 and a lower face 15. Upper face 13 is designed for wiping the soles of shoes, while lower face 15 is in contact with the ground. Upper face 13 and lower face 15 can constitute the two sides of a unitary floor covering such as a braided door mat. Upper face 13 and lower face 15 can also be respectively formed from the upper face of pad 12 and the lower face of base covering or substrate 14, the pad being attached in any way to the substrate, as is the case in the embodiment shown in the drawings.

According to the invention, a well is formed in covering 1. This well forms a window in pad 12 so that a part of substrate 14 is visible through it.

The well is designed to receive a strip of material 17 whose shape corresponds to the window. Substrate 14, in this region, serves as a backing, and the window, that is the pad section, as a peripheral retaining wall. Strip 17 is impregnated with a disinfectant product such as a bactericide, fungicide, or viricide, or a mixture of these. Detergent can also be added. For this a spongy pad suitable for liquid retention is employed.

The impregnated strip is preferably removable so it can be cleaned or replaced.

Pad 12 can be realized of polypropylene. It can preferably be dust-repellant and/or anti-skid.

Substrate 14 can be made from an anti-skid material to increase its attachment to the floor.

When the floor covering is made from a single one-piece material, the well appears in the shape of a recess in which the strip of impregnated material can be housed.

" The invention provides an article that is easy to use and simple in design (no complicated manufacturing process), and can be used to disinfect a wide variety of buildings.

CLAIMS

1. Floor covering designed to be placed at the entrance of a building to wipe the soles of shoes, said floor covering comprising an upper face designed for wiping said shoes and a lower face in contact with the ground, characterized in that at least a part of the upper face has a disinfectant product.
2. Floor covering according to claim 1, in which the disinfectant product is impregnated in the covering.
3. Floor covering according to claim 1 or 2, in which a well is provided to receive a material suitable for retaining the disinfectant product through impregnation.
4. Floor covering according to claim 3, in which said retention material is removable for cleaning or replacement.
5. Floor covering according to any of the previous claims, in which the upper face is polypropylene.
6. Floor covering according to any of the previous claims, in which the upper face is dust repellant.
7. Floor covering according to any of the previous claims, in which the upper face is skid resistant.
8. Floor covering according to any of the previous claims, in which the disinfectant product is selected from the group of bactericides, fungicides, and viricides.

[One page of drawings follows.]

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